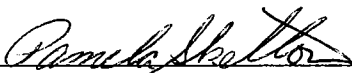


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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 022024-000300US

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: 
Pamela Skelton

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Christopher J. Stepanian, et al.

Application No.: 10/034,296

Filed: December 21, 2001

For: AEROGEL COMPOSITE WITH
FIBROUS BATTING

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 9746

Examiner: Jennifer A. Boyd

Technology Center/Art Unit: 1771

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF
REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowance and Examiner's Reasons for Allowance mailed March 20, 2006, Applicants provide the following comments.

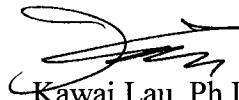
As an initial matter, Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the careful consideration provided by the Examiners during prosecution of the instant application. The claimed composite articles are a unique and novel advance relative to the fields of aerogel science and fibrous batting materials.

With respect to the Reasons for Allowance, and while the claimed composition articles may be considered to comprise a lofty fibrous batting sheet through a continuous aerogel, they are described in claim 1 as comprising a continuous aerogel through a lofty fibrous batting sheet. A lofty fibrous batting is a fibrous material defined by the terms "lofty" and "batting" such that the batting is not limited solely by properties of bulk and some resilience. Instead, the

specification includes detailed discussion and guidance regarding a lofty fibrous batting to a person of skill in the art. That discussion and guidance includes at least the portion extending from page 11, first full paragraph, through page 13, first full paragraph.

Given the rather long prosecution history in the instant application, and the procedural position in light of the Sonada et al. Japanese document, Applicants' business needs and commercial embodiments of the invention warranted the revision by Examiner's Amendment to bring the application into condition for allowance. The incorporation of the term "sheet" does not reflect acquiescence to any rejection of record. Indeed, the Japanese document was not included in any rejection of record. Therefore, Applicants reserve the right to pursue, without prejudice, the subject matter of the claims prior to the incorporation of the term "sheet" in a continuing application.

Respectfully submitted,


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